The Pastor Speaks

A look at squabbles

By PETER HALE

Many times the question has been raised, "Why can't people in the church get along better?" Not that other groups get along any better; but it would appear to be something wrong when churches squabble. And they have done it since the early days, the first churches quarreled among themselves. We owe our possession to some of the new testament books to the fact that these early churches had a lot of trouble. One often hears of dissentions, quarrels, splits, disagreements, and bad relationships in churches. It is a mark against the church that people are unable to submerge their differences in their common purpose.

Perhaps the problem is one of growth, spirited type growth. The gift of God in Jesus Christ is heady stuff and some folks can't handle it. Before you know it, individuals feel they know what's right and everyone else is wrong. It is unforunate but that's the way it goes. Pride, selfishness too high an estimation of one's self can break up a fellowship.

Like everything else one has to work at this. Love, forgiveness and acceptance are not just catch words in the faith. They are actions, modes of living that need to be practiced. Then, under the guidance of the Spirit, maybe we can truly learn to be church.

Peter Hale is pastor of Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church and Walker's Presbyterian Church.

Bible and Daily Living

The threats to marriage and family life

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Who's Who In The Kingdom?
Lesson for March 1, 1981
Bible Study Passage: Matthew 19:1-15

Introduction

There is an urgency surrounding marriage and family life and the threats against these long-standing social relationships. The modern church faces a critical challenge in defending the divine intentions of family living. The church must speak a word to these vital concerns which affect everyone. The church is responsible to provide activities which promote quality family life, as well as offering counsel and help for those marriages and families in trouble.

Jesus was greatly concerned for families, children, and marriages. He sought to affirm and build healthy relationships in all his dealings with people. He had certain ideals which he proposed as a means of speaking to these issues. We may wish he would have left us more than he did, but we won't find too many specifics in his sayings about divorce, marriage, children, and families.

What About Divorce? [Matthew 19:7-9]

There's no doubt that divorce was socially sanctioned in the days of Jesus. It is likewise true that divorce has become a socially acceptable standard for coping with troublesome relationships. Today a couple can marry with great ease and be divorced with the same ease. Staying married is not easy when the availability of separation and divorce is so obtainable.

Jesus lived in a male dominated society in which a man could divorce his wife for almost any reason. Some of those Pharisees tempted Jesus with a question about divorce. His response was not what they wanted to hear. He argued that marriage was a divine creation of God, that men and women were created for togetherness to become "one flesh" or "one soul."

Thus, Jesus offered the ideal as the way things are intended to be. He did not go into specific cases where divorce may be the only answer, for contrary to popular opinion and expectations, all marriages are not "made in heaven." Some people cannot possibly live together and achieve "togetherness." Divorce has to be an option only after all efforts at reconciliation are exhausted. Naturally the Pharisees did not appreciate Jesus overstepping the authority of Moses.

What About Staying Single? [Matthew 19:10-12]

Remaining single is not as frowned upon as it once was. In by gone times single persons were referred to as "old bachelors" and "old maids," as if there were something wrong with the choice not to marry.

Jesus identified three groups of persons not suited for marriage. Included were those who were physically or emotionally unsuited, those who were cruelly made unsuited by rulers, and those who exclusively chose the kingdom over marriage.

There are some persons for whom the work of the kingdom is so important that time does not permit the luxury of marriage and family life. Such persons are not be condemned for their choices.

There is no clear indication that Jesus is talking about celibacy as practiced by certain orders of the priesthood. He is merely making reference to a voluntary choice to remain single as opposed to marriage.

What About Children? [Matthew 19:13-15]

There was a "warm spot" in Jesus' heart for children. I don't think he ever forgot what it was like to be a child. Thus, he was sensitive to the needs and rights of children. Verses 13-15 are instructive for the church concerning the religious education of children.

In some religious circles children are ignored or exluded from the church's focus. In some settings children are spiritually and emotionally abused. Some children grow up in a "spiritual" environment in which God is someone to fear rather than someone to love and trust. The church cannot be Christ's church if it neglects the children and their needs.

The hand of Jesus upon the heads of little children is a moving pictue in the New Testament. He believed in children and sought to affirm their place in the kingdom. He would be enraged to see the growing cases of child abuse in our day. The church can minister to children and help parents in the awesome responsibility of raising children.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN
(USPS 620-800)
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY ATLANTIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
IN HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COUNTY
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA 24522
ESTABLISHED IN 1892

Bill Sherrod ..... Editor and General Manager
Frances Paulette ..... Assistant Editor
Allen Austin ..... Advertising Manager
Melanie Fraley ..... Classified

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Appomattox, Virginia,under the Act of Congress of March 3,1879.

Address all correspondence to THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN, P. O. Box 2097, Appomattox, Virginia 24522.

Subscription rates: $8.00 a year in Appomattox, and all adjoining counties; All others $10.00, payable in advance.
Member: Virginia Press Association

Single Copy : 20 cents

Letter

ASCS official thanks paper

Editor:

In a business where communication is of great importance to its success, the newspaper plays an important part in relaying to the public information that is vital to the business as well as the public.

We at the Appomattox ASCS office through the administration of our farm programs depend heavily on a good information program to the public. The Times-Virginian has been a major source of our information program.

In the last four years your paper has published a weekly column for ASCS. In addition you have occasionally printed feature articles for us. I would like to thank you for the space alloted us and the professionalism that has been shown. Without this vital link, ASCS certainly would not have enjoyed the amount of participation in the various programs we administer.

Again, ASCS would like to thank the staff at the Times-Virginian for its help, and we look forward to many years of association.

Sincerely,
Thomas H. Conrad
County Executive Director

Anderson report: Delegates finishing up

By CLAUDE W. ANDERSON

We are now in the process of completing our work, as we will recess on Saturday with plans to return on April 1 to handle reapportionment. It has been an extremely hectic week because most of the controversial measures have been voted upon. All committee work was completed on Tuesday, with the exception of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees.

The Senate has received the Senate Finance Committee's version of the budget and will debate it at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. The money for public schools that I discussed in last week's letter is still in. The Senate Finance Committee added additional support for half-day kindergarten programs operated in some localities.

The bills seeking to remove the state sales tax on food and non-prescription drugs were killed by the Senate Finance Committee Wednesday as was the bill which would have restructured the state income tax. One tax relief measure; however, was approved. As of October 1, 1981, there will be no state sales tax on home heating fuel. The bill was actually approved last year, with a July 1, 1982 effective date so the Finance Committee just changed the date for the measure to go into effect.

Last week I was very pleased to have a large delegation of local officials accompany me to Petersburg to tour the Petersburg jail farm. The arrangements were made by the State Crime Commission, of which I am a member. I hope the trial was beneficial as consideration is given to the establishment of a regional jail. Legislation has been approved by the Appropriations Committee to provide additional funds in the 1982-84 budget for regional jails.

It appears that when we go home we will have agreed to some form of legislation for state regulation of dealers in precious metals. At this point, each house has approved a bill, so a Committee of Conference will be necessary to settle the differences. The number of home robberies has risen so drastically that something just had to be done.

Another problem which has been addressed is that of agricultural land preservation. With the large number of people moving out of the central cities, pressure is placed upon the owners of property in rural areas to sell their land for development.

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Obituaries

Mrs. Thelma D. Booth

Mrs. Thelma Drinkard Booth, 75, died Tuesday morning in St. John's Nursing Home, Lynchburg. She was the wife of the late Thomas William Booth.

Born in Concord, she was a daughter of the late William Albert and Mary Scruggs Drinkard. She was a member of Bethlehem United Methodist Church where she was former assistant organist and a member of the adult choir.

She is survived by two sons, Thomas Ray Booth, Concord, and Kenneth William Booth, Rustburg; two sisters, Mrs. Rosalie Drinkard Gough, Winston-Salem, N.C., and Mrs. Eunice Drinkard Harvey, Alta Monte Springs, Fla.; four grandchildren, Roberta Bowles Booth and William Hunter Booth, both of Concord, Cindy Noel Booth and Jodie Lynn Booth, both of Rustburg.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday from Bethlehem United Methodist Church by the Rev. Wyndham Gregory. Burial was in Concord cemetery.

Those wishing to give memorials please consider the Bethlehem United Methodist Church.

Robinson Funeral Home, Appomattox, was in charge of arrangements.

Frank Charles Chuchek

Frank Charles Chuchek, 70, of Route 1, Appomattox; died at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday at Virginia Baptist Hospital. He was a retired school administrator with 36 years of service.

Born in Johnstown, Pa., he was a son of the late Frank Chuchek Sr. and Theresa B. Chuchek. He received his B.S. Degree from Shippensburg State Teachers' College, Shippensburg, Pa., and his Master's degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh. He was a member of Liberty Baptist Church, a former member of the Appomattox Lions Club, a past Puritan president, and was an active member of the Appomattox Unit of the American Cancer Society.

He is survived by his wife, Norma Case Chuchek; two daughters, Norma Jeanne Chuchek Sears, Salisbury, N. C., and Joanne Maris Chuchek Blue, Columbus, Ohio; one stepson, Franklin Case Weightman, Chapel Hill, N.C.; seven grandchildren; two brothers, Fred J. Chucheck, Clearfield, Pa., and Anthony C. Chucheck, Toledo, Ohio, and one sister, Mrs. Olivia C. McGrew, Toledo, Ohio.

Funeral services were held at 4 p.m. Friday at Robinson Funeral Home, with burial in Liberty Cemetery.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials, please consider the Appomattox County Unit of American Cancer Society or the Appomattox County Volunteer Rescue Squad.

John C. Curran

BERRYVILLE - John Cyril Curran, 76, of Route 2, Berryville, died Thursday at Newton D. Baker Veterans Center in Martinsburg, W. Va.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at 10 a.m. at the Enders Funeral Home in Berryville. Burial followed at 3 p.m. in the Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Curran was born July 7, 1904 in New York, N. Y., a son of the late John Joseph Curran and Mary Jane Byres Curran. He was a retired lieutenant colonel with the Military Police of the U. S. Army.

Surviving with his widow, Jacqueline Burton Curran, are one daughter, Jacqueline C. Potts of Berryville; one son, Col. Jan Donald Curran of Mjaintz, Germany; and a number of nieces and nephews.

The family requests that memorials contributions be made to the John H. Enders Volunteer Rescue Squad of Berryville next to the American Cancer Society.

Enders Funeral Home, Berryville was in charge of arrangements.

Randolph Spotswood Doss

Randolph Spotswood Doss, 55, of Concord, died at 10:10 p.m. Tuesday in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Born in Appomattox County, he was a son of the late Aubrey Doss Sr. and Gwendalyn Smoot Doss. He was a member of Liberty Baptist Church, a World War II veteran, and a self-employed timber cutter.

He is survived by seven brothers, Aubrey L. Doss Jr., Lynchburg, Douglas O. Doss, Appomattox, Samuel L. Doss, Phoenix, Ariz., Joe W. Doss, Appomattox, Horace S. Doss Clinton, Md., Harold Lee Doss, Jessup, Ga., and Gene A. Doss, Appomattox; three sisters, Mrs. Mabel Smith and Mrs. Nora Handy, both of Appomattox, and Mrs. Peggy Watson, Phoenix, Ariz.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday at Robinson Funeral Home with burial in Liberty Cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Annis D. Drinkard

CONCORD-Annis D. Drinkard, 98, Concord, died early Friday, Feb. 20, at her residence. She was the wife of the late Frank C. Drinkard.

Born in Appomattox County, she was a daughter of the late William Henry Drinkard and Lizzie Stone Drinkard. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church where she was a former Sunday School teacher and a member of the W.M.U.

She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. W. N. (Frances) Wilkinson, Concord; one granddaughter, Mrs. Jean Thomas, Concord; one great-grandson, Edward Thomas, Concord; one sister, Mrs. Alma Jennings, Lynchburg, and one brother, Paul S. Drinkard, Appomattox.

Graveside funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Concord Cemetery by the Rev. Frank Casper.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider the Concord Rescue Squad.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Marion W. Pendarvis

Marion Wheaton Pendarvis, formerly of Concord, departed this life Sunday morning in Washington, D.C. She was the daughter of the late Benjamin Wheaton and the late Sally W. Wheaton. She was the wife of the late Otis Pendarvis and was a member of New Hope Baptist Church, Concord.

She is survived by six brothers, William Wheaton, John E. Wheaton and Alexander Wheaton, all of Washington, D.C., the Rev. Richard A. Wheaton and Paul G. Wheaton, both of Concord, and Ben D. Wheaton of Lynchburg; four sisters, Miss Jeannette Wheaton, Mrs. Ellen Harris and Miss Inez Wheaton, all of Washington, D.C., and Mrs. Olivia Howard of Suitland, Md., and one aunt, Miss Nannie Thornhill of Lynchburg.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, Feb. 19 at noon from the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. Burial was in Arlington National Cemetery.

John T. Rhines Funeral Home, Washington, D.C. was in charge of arrangements.

Lewis M. Ringham

Lewis M. Ringham, 86, of 7312 Timberlake Road, died at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Veterans Hospital, Salem. He was the husband of Annie Cheatham Ringham.

Born in Stanley, Ind., he was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Ringham. He was retired.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Alice Cunningham, Spokane, Wash., and Mrs. Eris Jordan, Dallas, Tex., and five grandchildren.

Graveside funeral services were conducted at 10 a.m. Thursday, February 19 at the Evergreen Cemetery by the Rev. Edmond Terry.

James Earl Williams

James Earl Williams, formerly of Appomattox, died Sunday in California.

Born in Tennessee, he was the son of the late Earl P. and Kate Williams.

He is survived by two sons: James Earl Williams, Jr., and Seth Williams, both of Mass. Two sisters: Deloris Dojaquez of California and Virginia Freeland of New York; four brothers, Eugene Paulette of Evergreen, Johnny Williams, Harry Williams and David Williams of Colorado.

A funeral serve will be conducted Friday at 2:00 p.m. at Robinson Funeral Home with burial in the Liberty Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at the Robinson Funeral Home from 7 until 9 on Thursday night, and at other times at the home of Gene Paulette of Evergreen.

BABY OF THE WEEK

MARCIE CHESTER FRANCIS, JR. is 14 months old. He is the son of Bonnie and Chester Francis of Gladstone. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Burks and Mrs. Augusta Francis, all of Gladstone.

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Reunion planned

Plans have been formulated for the Old Carver-Price High School class reunion to be held June, 5, 6, and 7.

The fee for participation is $50.00 per couple. Anyone wishing to participate please contact Carl Moore at 352-7204 or Lewis Fitch at 237-3689 before March 20.

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Many tomorrows will make up the future for an FFA member of today. Big tomorrows like graduation from high school, college or job, a new car, career choice, marriage, children, retirement.

And an endless list of little tomorrows fill each day of the week in a year. Should I accept an office? Hogs or sheep, corn or soybeans? Which style to buy? Play hockey or run track? How to break the news to them? Who to date? Landscaping or floral arranging? Parts and sales or repair? What to write? Should I borrow the money? Who to vote for? What about his health? Or mine? How can I keep better records? Computer? How can I help? Solar energy?

Put them all together they make a lifetime and fill a career.

Vocational agricultural education and the FFA is "Building Tomorrows" for 485,000 high school students "Today." The Building process begins for them when they enroll in the vocational agriculture class in their school as freshmen.

First of all, vo-ag will prepare these students for the important "Tomorrow" of getting established in an agricareer. They are taught skills and competencies in the classroom for a particular field of agricultural interest they have chosen.

Secondly, the new students soon discover a unique learning laboratory will be an integral part of vo-ag. It is the FFA Chapter where students are given the opportunity to Learn By Doing. Incentive awards to motivate them. Competition to drive them. Desire to pull them into their work and study. Experiences to season them. Hard work to test them. Rubbing shoulders with other members and experienced adults to teach them.

An adult advisor is the chief builder in this educational Building process. The advisor is the vocational agriculture instructor, as well as the FFA Chapter advisor, and is the reason motivation, inspiration and learning take place.

An added plus in "Building the Tomorrows" for young people is the unique experience FFA can provide its members. Experiences which help them face the little tomorrows.

Leadership experiences abound for members constantly in FFA. Organized ones like public speaking contests or serving as an elected officer. Or unorganized ones like a chance to present a motion during the meeting; the chance to serve and work on a committee; or the chance to see an older chapter member succeed.

Add to leadership the experiences of solid citizenship training, a sensible bout with cooperation, the encouragement of self pride, forced decision making, a taste of thrift, an opportunity to serve others, and a place to inhibit unashamed patriotism.

Bring on the Tomorrows!

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